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Solitude.

Not in the deepest tangles of the wood,
The turtle's haunt, the timid squirrel's lair;
Not on the ocean beaches, rough and bare
With never-ending battles, unsubdued
In war of winds and waters hoar and rude;
Not in the mountain-passes, where the air
Sobs low, and life is like a long despair—
Thy home is not in these, O Solitude!
But in the busy concourse, long and loud,
Where not one pulse of human sympathy
Beats through the grasping spirits of the crowd—
Where each is rapt in snatching greedily
His brother's portion—'neath a shallow shroud,
We know thy truest haunt, and weep for thee.

—*Arthur L. Salmon in Chambers' Journal.*

Maxville, Ohio.

In reading our paper, I find much news from the churches. I am able to learn what the Brethren are doing for the cause of the blessed Master. I am much pleased with our outlook. I am also pleased with Bro. Brockwell's aggressive work on the Pacific coast. May God give him souls for his hire.

Once in reading one of Spurgeon's sermons, I was considerably struck by Spurgeon's advice to his church: "Brethren do all the good you can, but don't cackle." At the time I read that I thought that it was a rough way to express good sentiment. But since then I have reflected upon it, and I now think Spurgeon wrong, more especially when we consider the habits of the feathered cacklers. I like to hear the hens cackle when eggs are worth 25 cents per dozen, and our barn yard these fine mornings has more music in it than a hand organ. But if the hens were like the little boy said, "standing around doing nothing," then there would not be very much pay or music in that. I have noticed that when one hen cackles it acts as a stimulus for the other hens, and if they reason they probably say, "Well she has laid an egg. Our master fed us both this morning, and why should not I pay him as well as that cackling Shanghai;" hence we get more eggs than if each hen laid her egg and made no noise over it.

This may be used for an illustration for people who delight to tell what the Lord has done for them, and this often times proves a means of grace to them and to others. He who made the hens to cackle made us to talk. What then can we find better to talk about than the good we are trying to do and the blessing we receive in doing it. You know what Malachi says, "They that feared the Lord spoke often one to the other, and the Lord hearkened and heard it." He did not call it cackling by any means. I have heard old mothers in Israel tell the story of their conversion, and how they prayed and prayed for the conversion of a wayward boy or a daughter, or a husband until converted to the Lord. I have heard that story over and over and yet I like it. It is a story which to me will never grow older.

When professors of religion have that sense of propriety that will not allow them to say any thing about their own experience, I have made up my mind that their experience is not of the best or the greatest. I like good honest criticism, it has a purifying effect. No man has done more cackling than Spurgeon himself. Now I do not complain against him, for I am glad to hear what himself and his church are doing; but I want him to let us cackle when an egg has been laid, even if it is not as large as a tabernacle egg.

I want to know what the toiling frontier missionary is doing. Is he reaping sheaves from the good seed which he sowed in the wilderness, and watered with his tears? It does him good to tell of it, and it does me good to hear of it. The angels in heaven rejoice over repenting sinners and why not we on earth rejoice.

I think I see some one smile and say, "Sometimes hens cackle but do not lay." That is so, but there are people who talk much but do little. I have not gathered many sheaves yet, but I believe that God is blessing my humble labors and I derive my consolation from the 6th verse of 126 Psalm, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him," therefore brethren sow that ye may reap, and bring in the precious sheaves and tell us all about it in the EVANGELIST.

We have maintained a Sunday school all winter at Zion, and the interest is increasing through the untiring energy of our efficient Superintendent, Mr. Wm. Rittgers.

D. HENRICKS.

Port Republic, Va.

I am now at home, happy after nearly seven weeks labor in Maryland. I was at the dedication of the first brethren church in the state of Md. The people are much in need of Bible alone doctrine, at St. James. Many good people are waiting to see if we really do practice what we preach. They say they have heard others preach to them to follow the gospel and after they joined the church they found they enforced man made laws and traditions upon them foreign to the gospel. They have been deceived so badly that some of them are standing aloof from any church, and waiting to see if we have not a creed hid "behind the curtain," and after we get them in the church we will enforce it, and thus deceive our members as they have been deceived.

I believe there will be a great work done at St. James as soon as the people see that we are not only sayers of the Word, but doers also. The people at St. James are thirsting for more sound gospel-alone-doctrine.

Every minister in the brethren church should carefully read brother S. H. Bashor's article on preaching doctrine in No. 5. I know that Bro. Bashor's success here in Va. was caused by him preaching pure doctrine. That is what the people are in need of. Brother Bashor truly says, the gospel teaches something in particular or it teaches nothing in general. I can say amen to that and also add, he who is so timid that he is afraid to teach those particular things as well as the general ones is not fit to be a teacher in the church of God.

I was with brother Shaver while he was preaching at St. James and led the singing. I led in singing one hour each evening and then we would sit and listen to brother Shaver's powerful soul-convicting sermons, and how we were made to rejoice when we saw souls flocking home to God. The meeting closed on the 9th of Jan. Result has been reported. I went from St. James to Funkstown and took possession of the upper story of Bro. McFaden's house and there had access to his library for nearly a week, and on Sunday the 16th at 10½ o'clock I preached to a fair congregation in Funkstown. In the afternoon Bro. Tilman Fahrney took me to Mapleville, about 9 miles east of Hagerstown and I preached to a small congregation on Sunday night. I continued to preach every night and some time in day time until February the 3rd. Immediate result 1 by relation and 3 by baptism. Others are counting the cost. We had no great ingathering but we did better than we expected taking into consideration the peculiar circumstances by which we were surrounded. Our congregations at first were very small but gradually increased until we had fair congregations. I believe there is a bright future for the little church at Mapleville. The oposition is strong and the members are few, but all that is needed is falsehoods corrected and Bible alone doctrine preached and the little band will increase. Brethren and sisters live up to your creed, the New Testament, it will carry you safely through and land you safely in the beautiful city of God. Don't give up the Bible; take it for your rule of faith and practice. The traditions of men and all human creeds will perish with this world. Therefore reject them all. Let the wolves howl and obey the word of the Lord. It will stand forever. May the Lord bless you and save you is my prayer.

ISAAC D. BOWMAN.

Lathrop Items.

Yesterday was a pleasant day for us, clear and balmy skies, thermometer about 60 degrees above zero at noon. Religiously, we had a most refreshing season. The S. S. at 11 a. m. was large. The officers elected at the beginning of this year are doing nobly, and the school is gaining in numbers. At the conclusion of the S. S. exercises, a hymn was sung, and an invitation given for any who wished to unite with the church to come forward. Our esteemed friend, S. J. Holsinger, (cousin of H. R. H.,) came and gave us his hand. He had previously expressed a desire to unite with the church, and had come the day before from his present home, Sacramento City to be baptized. A number of brethren, sisters and friends immediately repaired to the river, a few hundred yards from the old campmeeting ground, where, in the clear running water, the holy ordinance was administered. Bro. Holsinger is a young man of great promise, is fully persuaded as to the reasonableness of the Christian obligation. He has practiced law for three years, but is now engaged in a business which suits his feelings better. In the evening we had a praise or social meeting. The most of the members took part, and all seemed to enjoy themselves fully. Thus closed another day's labor in the Lord's vineyard.

Sister Mary Plummer, of San Francisco, has bought a home in Lathrop and herself and two daughters are now living here. Also Brother Atkins. of San Francisco, expects to commence business as a jeweler in our town. We feel encouraged by the coming of these members, and hope we all may be mutually benefited.

The weather continued dry, but we still hope for the later rains. However, we must learn to be content.

J. P. WOLFE.

Lathrop, Cal., Jan. 31st, 1887.

Michigan Jottings.

Your correspondent left home for Auburn, Ind., Jan. 8th. Bro. Rittenhouse had commenced the meetings in the German M. E. church, which was rented for 35 cents per night, and we providing wood and oil. But I was glad I did not understand the contract before I went there, being Christ's embassador, I dare not compromise and thereby sacrifice the truth; but the people heard the truth all the same and the cause did not suffer for it either.

Brethren, I will tell you what I would do if I did not believe the doctrine of the Brethren; I would just go to the M. E. or some other church that had no doctrine to defend and make it pay better.

Brethren, just here let me tell you the result of not showing the truth. When at Gravelton, I met a number who had been to hear Bashor. They said to me, they loved him for his boldness in defending the cause, and of those belonged to the U. B. church, a mother and daughter are school teachers. The mother said to me, a doctrine that is not worth defending is not worth having,

At Auburn I was told the town had not been thus stirred before by the truth. Several Methodists said to me, the gospel is what we want. If we haven't got it we want it. A prominent merchant said, that is the way I like to hear men talk; I and wife are coming. One of the most prominent Lutherians said to me, you talk plain and it is right. The truth is what men need here in this place. This man said, you folks will take this end of the town. So may it be. The Lord bless the cause at Auburn.

I shall not soon forget the kindness manifested toward me and our cause, The German Methodists treated us with due regard, for which they have my thanks. Our young divine, of Williams Co., O., did some good singing and playing on the organ. I formed a very favorable opinion of the young brother. May he prove worthy of the cause he has espoused.

J. C. CRIPE.

Echo, Kansas.

We were brought out from Lawrence, some 16 miles, to preach the funeral of Bro. Myers, on Sunday 23rd. After the burrying, we submitted the question to the people as to the propriety of holding a series of meetings at Collier school house. All seemed willing, if not more one for that night, and we invited the church members of all denominations and went in for a lively time and a big revival with increasing interest. The house proves too small. On Thursday I went home to be absent one night. So I asked a G. B. minister to conduct my meeting that night. He said he did not know whether he could run a Progressive meeting or not, but he was willing to try, and I was willing to trust him, for I knew he would not deceive me. The G. B's have done a noble part; also the Baptist take hold with a will. Last night there were five ministers present besides the writer and all took hold like men. We truly had a feast of fat things. Two converts have come out up to date: there is great interest; many are in tears. The music is excellent. Sister Vallera Metsker is organist and the choir is led by S. W. Metsker and family. We do not know how long the meetings will continue. Our prospects at present are indeed flattering.

JOSEPH MICHAEL.

Dowagiac.

The Almena church is now alive and at work. Through the labors of the elder in charge, and the writer, and the church with the blessing of God, there were two received last Lords day, Jan. 30th; one by baptism and one by relation, and there are five or six more to be received today, Feb. 16. May God bless the brethren and sisters at Almena and every where.

We had to leave there with a good interest, and we feel that the work is not finished there yet.

Bro. Rittgers is here with us in the Pleasant Valley congregation, holding forth the word, and as he is a mighty hunter in the hands of the Lord to hunt down sin and iniquity in the hearts of the perishing, we bespeak a good time and refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Pray much for us.

Dear brethren, never, never forget that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

WALTER CLARK.